

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
APPROVED Minutes of March 1, 2011 meeting  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Cris Dittrich, Kathleen Paterson, Raluca Mocanu, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

2. Minutes of the January 4, 2011, meeting were approved. (February meeting was canceled.)

**Old Business**

3. *Agriculture Producers Survey* Jennifer reported that many surveys have been returned. She will provide a summary of the results at the April meeting. She will send us the mailing list of producers so we can suggest others to receive the survey. Follow-up calls will be made to non-respondents.

4. *Workshops* Jennifer announced an AGvocate workshop on March 30 and a Ct. Farm Bureau workshop on March 31. The committee discussed whether it would be beneficial for the committee to become a member of the Farm Bureau. Jennifer will investigate.

5. *Agricultural Zoning Regulations* The subcommittee will bring a draft to the April meeting for review.

6. *Farmland Use Agreements* The use-agreement subcommittee reported on issues identified in the 2010 reports from farmers leasing Town lands. After some discussion of these issues, the committee approved a "bridge" one-year use-agreement with the current lessees for 2011. Some restrictions on inputs were added to the contract. These 2011 bridge agreements will be sent to farmers along with a request for them to meet with committee members at the property to discuss the bridge agreement and issues in the 2010 reports. At future meetings, the committee will consider terms for use-agreements for 2012 and beyond.

7. *Meeting with Sustainability Committee* Kathleen, Cris and Ed reported on an informal discussion with this committee, which recommended more outreach to new farmers.

**New Business**

8. *Walktober* Vicky suggested that the committee sponsor a farm tour for this event. A farm with an ability to handle a large crowd is preferable. Vicky will contact a farmer to possibly offer a tour.

9. The committee noted with sadness the recent loss of former committee member Gary Zimmer. We will sign a card to his family at the April meeting.

**Items for future agendas**

Review ag zoning regulations, farmer survey results (April),

Terms for 2012 use-agreements, ag incentives action plan, publicity, farmland preservation

The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

